

Grants Allocated in Fall 2025

Organization	Description	The Grant
Northern Goals יעדים לצפון	<p>Northern Goals has led culturally adapted welfare and education services in northern Israel for over 20 years. Following the Iron Swords War, over 64,000 residents were evacuated, leading to widespread instability, cramped temporary accommodations in distant hotels, challenges to livelihoods and to parental authority, and prolonged periods without access to kindergartens and schools. Meanwhile, the ongoing attacks directly damaged many of the homes they had left behind.</p> <p>The Northern Goals grant will support the Parent-Child Center located in Kiryat Shmona and the surrounding area, which serves Jews and Arabs, Kibbutzim, and Moshavim. The Center's ten clinical therapists offer mental health support and family counseling to families with children who have returned to the north after a prolonged period of displacement and are experiencing behavioral, cognitive, or psychological issues. The program receives referrals for treatment from the regional welfare offices and assigns families to one of the ten dedicated clinical therapists specializing in family care at the Center.</p>	\$40,000
The Varda Institute for Community Building מרכז ורדה – מרכז לאומי ובינלאומי לבינוי קהילה	<p>The Varda Institute specializes in sharing practical tools and methodologies with community leaders that, when implemented, heighten community members' sense of belonging and strengthen the community's fabric, resilience, and social cohesion. Their work encourages the adoption of a culture of belonging, enabling people to feel valued, committed, and ready to collaborate. The institute offers a range of services, including in-depth processes, workshops, lectures, and personalized consulting, to help individuals and organizations achieve a lasting impact.</p> <p>The Varda Institute grant will support the training of young and emerging community leadership in HaGalil Elyon Regional Council, located on the northeast border of Israel (the closest kibbutzim to Lebanon and several of which are only meters from the physical border fence), which includes 29 kibbutzim. The program course (~200 hours) will recruit a cadre of young (ages 25 to 40) emerging community leaders to train and empower them to serve their communities effectively. This is especially needed to help rebuild fragmented communities following the impacts (war, displacement, etc.) of the last two years.</p> <p>This project will work collaboratively with regional council representatives and elected officials, as well as current community leaders, to integrate principles and practices that foster strong communities into day-to-day operations. It will also help create community guidelines that involve younger community members, making the region more attractive to young families seeking to establish themselves in nurturing northern communities.</p>	\$40,000
The Shahaf Foundation קרן שח"ף	<p>The Shahaf Foundation strengthens community resilience and social cohesion by empowering diverse communities in Israel's geographic and social periphery. It addresses modern challenges, such as national emergencies, polarization, loneliness, and inequality, through sustainable development and local leadership, and has supported over 300 mission-driven communities in 90 cities. It has launched a national initiative in partnership with the government and civil society to provide relief following the events of October 7.</p> <p>As northern Israel begins the recovery process, Shahaf will provide training for local leadership (including community social workers, coordinators, community leaders, and council professionals) to better meet their constituents' needs and create more attractive, robust communities. The municipal courses (one for each municipality) will run over eight three-hour sessions led by experts, with approximately 45 participants (including 15 community social workers). Additionally, the program will develop an overarching regional forum (convening approx. 70 community leaders) organized by a steering committee that will encourage peer learning, planning, and strategy-building.</p>	\$30,000

	<p>The grant will focus on strengthening the community infrastructure and addressing the unique needs of two local northern municipalities, Mevo'ot HaHermon (encompassing 13 moshavim and community settlements, from the north shore of the Sea of Galilee to the Lebanese border and Mount Hermon) and Merom HaGalil (located in the northern part of Israel, in the eastern Upper Galilee region). This program is part of a larger initiative involving eight northern municipalities.</p>	
<p>Amanina אמיניה</p>	<p>Amanina was founded in 2014 to address a critical gap in Arab society: the significantly low rate of volunteerism (9.2% compared to 24% in Jewish society) and the lack of meaningful volunteer frameworks for Arab youth. They envision a thriving Arab society where volunteering is the cornerstone of social mobility, enabling individuals to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential.</p> <p>Since October 7, Aminana volunteers have prepared bomb shelters, campaigned in their communities to encourage community use of bomb shelters during red alerts, and worked to identify community members with mental health challenges. They were also among the first on-site following the bombing of the football field in Majdal Shams (27 July 2024) and the Iranian missile strike of Tamar in northern Israel (26 June 2025), and other moments of crisis. This work is in addition to their volunteer work, which involved identifying community members who needed mental health first aid and referrals to a clinical setting.</p> <p>Amanina will use the grant to provide mental health first aid training (comprising six 'train the trainer' workshops) for their 250 community volunteers in northern Israel (in five Arab towns - Bina, Deir el Asad, Majd al-Krum, Tamra, and Shefar'am). The training will help them identify mental health issues among community members and, by working with individuals and their families, refer them to the professional care and support they need. They also plan to convene the volunteers twice a year to further group cohesion, learn from other stakeholders, and strengthen their network.</p>	\$30,000
<p>Yad Shimon - Mashiv HaRuach Initiative יד שימון – משיב הרוח</p>	<p>Mashiv Ha'ruach was founded to address the mental health needs of first responders affected by the horrors of October 7. Their mission is to provide tailored resilience enhancement and mental health support to those indirectly impacted by trauma, fostering better coping mechanisms to deal with trauma, depression, and anxiety among professionals who serve others. Alongside their core mission, they are working to create an academic certification for first responders and lobbying the government to establish budgeted programs to support this work in the future.</p> <p>Mashiv HaRuach will deliver three intensive group workshops (each over two days, with 26 frontline professionals participating - approx. 70 in all) who have been exposed to cumulative trauma in northern Israel. There are ten hospitals in northern Israel, and many of their emergency rooms and wards treated trauma victims, and some facilities narrowly escaped direct missile hits. Most of the groups comprise teams of men and women, as well as Jews and Arabs, from the same professional setting, such as hospitals or EMT teams. The workshops include clinical facilitation, peer support, and emotional stabilization techniques appropriate for the group's orientation. Additionally, the workshop facilitators are also on high alert for group members who display heightened emotional distress and refer them for one-to-one care.</p>	\$50,000
<p>Chen Hanegev Association – Kibbutz Kfar Azza חן הנגב - קיבוץ כפר עזה</p>	<p>Chen Hanegev Association is an organization established by the Kibbutz Kfar Aza community following October 7 to assist in seeking donations. Kfar Aza is a kibbutz in southern Israel, around five kilometers east of Gaza. Prior to October 7, there were approximately 700 residents living on the Kibbutz; 64 were murdered, and 19 were taken hostage.</p> <p>Kfar Azza was one of the three kibbutzim (along with Be'eri and Nir Oz) that were hit the hardest on October 7th, losing 64 members. The focus of their fundraising is on building and infrastructure reconstruction, community welfare, and commemoration. The association also raises resources and creates connections with governmental bodies and Jewish communities in Israel and abroad. The primary goal is to develop a comprehensive and sustainable rehabilitation model that encompasses all aspects of kibbutz life. At the same</p>	\$40,000

	<p>time, however, support for supplementary mental health care is not covered by this larger initiative.</p> <p>Kibbutz Kfar Azza will leverage our grant to provide mental health services for three specific groups in the community. The project aims to provide 150 hours per month of designated therapy sessions (either in groups or individually) for young adults ages 18 to 30 (50 hours), older members, ages 65 to 89 (50 hours), and managers and management team members (27 in all) serving the community (50 hours) throughout the year. TELEM, an accredited and experienced provider of diverse psychological services, will provide and oversee mental health care.</p>	
<p>We Are All Kibbutz Be'eri</p> <p>קיבוץ ב'ארי</p>	<p>Be'eri is a kibbutz in southern Israel in the Negev desert, approximately 3 miles from the eastern border with the Gaza Strip. Prior to Oct. 7, there were 1200 residents on the Kibbutz. Following the massacre, a total of 101 Israeli civilians (among them Vivian Silver z"l) and 31 security personnel were killed, and 32 hostages were taken from the kibbutz, and 125 homes were destroyed. While there has been considerable interest in and funding for actual brick-and-mortar projects, other needs, including mental health services, have not been adequately addressed.</p> <p>Kibbutz Be'er will use the grant to cover the salary of a full-time social worker to coordinate work with the preschool education team, children, and families to ensure that every child's emotional needs are met. The educational team has identified 86 preschool children as particularly vulnerable. Additionally, the therapy will include sessions with their parents and siblings (approximately 215 participants in all) who, like the preschool children, will receive emotional support and guidance to help their family through this tumultuous period. To ensure the program's success, Be'eri needs to equip one of the kibbutz rooms with therapeutic games, art supplies, calming, cushioned corners, and tools to help the children express their emotions through play.</p> <p>The social worker will provide guidance to the educational staff of Be'eri as they develop interventions, identify needs, refer to services, and provide emotional support within the kibbutz's informal education system. Many of Be'eri's children spent hours trapped in safe rooms during the attacks, and while being evacuated, they were witnesses to the unimaginable horrors of that day.</p>	\$40,000
<p>Tamar</p> <p>תמר</p>	<p>Mental health practitioners established Tamar to provide culturally appropriate treatments and educational solutions to the Bedouin in Israel, thereby improving and strengthening their personal resilience and community affiliations. The association specializes in developing and providing innovative therapies, education, and community support, and annually assists thousands of children, youth, teenagers, and adults.</p> <p>Tamar's grant will support a mobile mental health clinic providing 400 hours of trauma-informed therapy to community members in recognized and unrecognized Bedouin communities spread over the Negev with little to no access to mainstream support. In all, approximately 1,200 individuals, including children, parents, adolescents, and teens, will be served by licensed Arabic-speaking mental health professionals.</p> <p>The mobile mental health clinic teams will consist of Arabic-speaking community professionals who provide culturally appropriate care and are familiar with the hierarchies and social dynamics of Bedouin communities. The work of the mobile clinic will be discreetly presented as "respite activities for families" to avoid arousing stigma or alienating potential service users.</p>	\$32,000
<p>A New Dawn in the Negev</p> <p>השחר החדש בנג</p>	<p>A New Dawn in the Negev is a Bedouin-Jewish nonprofit organization based in Rahat, Israel, dedicated to advancing and integrating Bedouin society. Their mission is to promote equality and coexistence between Bedouin and Jewish communities through youth empowerment programs and activities, including an employment training program for at-risk youth, an after-school English program for high-achieving teens, and a music education program called Sarab. They also host international youth exchanges and have a digital culture center for Bedouin youth to craft their personal narratives.</p>	\$35,000

	<p>Following October 7, they identified a real need to inform community members about available government assistance for war-related damage. They also aimed to help them access often daunting online governmental benefits and begin the process of recognizing damage to both property and bodily harm.</p> <p>A New Dawn in the Negev will use the grant to provide 30 hours of training to Arab-speaking social workers and community workers who will work with Bedouin families (between 200-300) in the Negev, to provide them with information regarding the availability of government benefits, deliver culturally sensitive one-on-one interventions regarding rights, governmental, municipal or regional services (accessed online) over a period of ten months.</p> <p>The program will include outreach and in-home interventions conducted by community providers who are perceived as 'their own' professionals, bringing a deep cultural understanding of religious and traditional issues, thereby alleviating the hesitancy of victims to seek assistance from the National Insurance Institute, the Israel Tax Authority Compensation Fund, and various health and community services. The team hopes that at least half of those applying will receive some governmental support, recognition, or progress in the recognition process within the program year.</p>	
Sikkuy-Aufog סיכוי-אופוק לשוויון ושותפות	<p>Sikkuy-Aufog is a joint Jewish-Arab NGO that promotes equality and partnership between Jewish and Arab citizens. The GFF has supported its recent effort to work with the Ministry of Education to increase shared society curricula in schools.</p> <p>Since October 7th, Sikkuy has identified huge gaps in emergency preparedness in Arab society and has taken on a leading role in establishing a strategy to create an emergency preparedness program within Arab society, aiming to rebuild and strengthen social resilience by raising awareness, engaging partners, and advocating for the integration of Arab society in rehabilitation policies, plans, and resources. They will also coordinate between philanthropy and NGOs in Arab society to make sure the real needs are shared. They stepped in to address inequities between Jewish and Arab societies in security, safety, emergency preparedness, and infrastructure, among other areas.</p> <p>Sikkuy-Aufog will use the grant for work in on a national initiative to increase emergency preparedness in Arab communities by 1. broad advocacy for increased equity in the allocation of governmental emergency preparedness funding, 2. promotion of policy recommendations, 3. coordinating efforts with civil society and philanthropy, and 4. increasing public awareness of the emergency wartime funding needed in Arab society through a targeted media campaign. Sikkuy will also work to integrate Arab leadership into government rehabilitation policies, plans, and resources. The national initiative is in partnership with INJAZ, a long-time GFF grantee. Injaz will take responsibility for establishing a digital emergency dashboard for Arab authorities. The dashboard maps existing emergency services, shelters, trauma centers, etc., by region.</p> <p>Emergency preparedness is a national effort, and to this end, the government has allocated a large budget to fund these efforts. A great deal of advocacy is needed to ensure equal funding allocation for the needs of Arab communities.</p>	\$30,000
SafeHeart לב בטוח	<p>SafeHeart provides mental health support that brings together a professional network of clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, clinical social workers, psychotherapists, and qualified clinical instructors, all of whom have experience working with severe traumatic experiences specifically in the field of psychedelic harm.</p> <p>SafeHeart serves two major target groups: first and foremost, the survivors of the music festivals (Nova, Psyduck, and Midburn), many of whom were under the influence of psychedelic substances and alcohol; and secondly, their families. SafeHeart recognized that the families of the survivors are experiencing significant difficulty themselves, and to deal with this secondary trauma,</p>	\$35,000

	<p>SafeHeart established a support system for the survivors' immediate family members, who are looking for advice, support, and guidance.</p> <p>SafeHeart will leverage GFF support to provide 350 individual therapy sessions to rave music survivors who will soon not have funding for their care, due to governmental cuts of funded therapy sessions from 48 to 24, or because some of the survivors have yet to be officially recognized by the government as disabled and eligible for funded care, or because survivors cannot mentally cope with the complexities of the governmental disability rating process mandatory for recognition. Our funding will act as a bridge to ensure continuity of treatment while other funding solutions are found. Although the demand for care has increased significantly, ironically, government-funded treatment hours have decreased, and according to SafeHeart's calculations, roughly 300 survivors will lose government funding for their therapy altogether, despite there still being a profound need for structured mental health support. Victims are beginning to fall through the cracks, and the situation is only destined to get worse as funds continue to dry up.</p>	
<p>Helem Club הלם קלאב</p>	<p>Helem Club (helem is the Hebrew word for shock) was founded by and is led by people with PTSD (primarily from military service, but not exclusively). The organization works to reduce the stigma and impact of trauma by providing knowledge, tools, and lasting peer support. Their work is based on digital community-centered rehabilitation, knowledge sharing, and the use of low-cost, scalable digital tools, reaching thousands. Additionally, they have volunteers who provide authentic responses 24/7, based on their subjective experiences and trauma-informed education.</p> <p>Helem Club will use their grant to 1. establish an internet site with "how to" guides simplifying the PTSD governmental rights recognition process; 2. The creation of educational instructional videos, to explain step by step how to apply for government recognition and benefits; and 3. The establishment of a moderated 24/7 WhatsApp group that provides support to people living with PTSD through the governmental recognition process, given by community volunteers all living with PTSD and having successfully received governmental recognition and benefits. Lastly, they will offer one-to-one guidance to group members who need extra help in using the governmental application webpages.</p> <p>In addition to supporting those who have PTSD, Helem Club's ongoing work includes campaigns to reduce the societal stigma surrounding PTSD, explaining the critical need for treatment, encouraging group members to seek mental health support, and discussing the importance of governmental recognition to ensure funding of PTSD treatment.</p>	\$42,000